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LB 85, 751

Sections 5 and 6, which is the prohibition against any federal or out-of-state prisoners, and reinsert the original Section 5 and the original Section 6, which I'm frantically trying to acquaint myself with. But basically what it says is that a private prison contractor can only contract with the federal government or another state to house prisoners, if it has met the requirements that are set out pursuant to the rest of the bill and other provisions that have concern with the viability of the facility and a variety of other restrictions. I remain puzzled about the complaints or the view that that is not an appropriate way to approach this issue. It has...I cannot see why a highly regulated, and I think this would be a highly regulated activity, would not meet our legitimate state objectives and would not keep us from the kinds of horrors that Senator Chambers was beginning to describe. I don't think we ought to become a dumping ground either, Senator Chambers, and I don't think that we ought to subject the general population of the state of Nebraska to unreasonable risk, nor do I think that prisoners of any stripe, whether they are state or federal or from another state, ought to be subject to abuses. I think all of those are absolutely legitimate concerns. My...my base concern is that the bill with the committee amendment simply goes too far, that the original provisions of the bill allowing for a rather regulated, maybe I shouldn't use the word highly regulated, but it looks fairly regulated to me, activity is a far more sensible and appropriate approach. With that, I would ask for your support for the amendment. I think we could go forward on a quite reasonable fashion with those sections reinstituted.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. You've heard the opening on the Wickersham amendment to the Schimek amendment to LB 85. Open for discussion on that. Senator Wickersham, your light was on, did you wish to speak? Senator Wickersham waives. Senator Dwite Pedersen, on the bill. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wickersham, when you get back, I'd like to ask you a question, if I could. My impression is...I'm reading the original LB 751.